

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 IO-10 SAM-01 SAI-01

NIC-01 ACDA-05 /069 W

----- 067826

O R 060905Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0837

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION USUN

USMISSION NATO

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, CY, TU

SUBJECT: LOCAL REACTIONS TO MEETING OF AMBASSADORS

1. SINCE NEW YEAR'S DAY, LOCAL GREEK PRESS HAS PLAYED UP WASHINGTON MEETING OF AMBASSADORS AS HARBINGER OF NEW AMERICAN INITIATIVE ON CYPRUS PROBLEM. MAINLY BASED ON REUTERS REPORTS, DRIFT OF STORIES IS THAT USG WILL PUSH FEDERAL PLAN BASED ON CANTONS. (SOME PRESS TREATS WAYNE HAYES' VISIT TO ATHENS, ANKARA AS PART OF HEIGHTENED US ACTIVITY ON BEHALF OF CYPRUS.)

2. GOC HAS AVOIDED DIRECT COMMENT, BUT GENERAL EDITORIAL POSTURE IS WATCHFUL WAITING, TINGED WITH HOPE. PREDICTABLY, LYSSARIDES' TA NEA AND FAR-RIGHT ETHNIKI REMAIN HOSTILE; TA NEA BRANDED AMBASSADOR CRAWFORD AND OTHER PARTICIPANTS AS IRRETRIEVABLY PRO-TURKISH; ETHNIKI VIEWS ALL "KISSINGER INITIATIVES"

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DARKLY. OTHER PAPERS, INCLUDING COMMUNIST HARAVGHI,

DISCUSS PROSPECT THAT SECRETARY MIGHT OPEN ROAD TO SETTLEMENT, WHILE CAUTIONING AGAINST FALSE HOPES RE USG POLICY. PHILELEFTHEROS, STILL CLOSEST PAPER TO MAKARIOS, WONDERS WHETHER USG CAN NOW PRODUCE ACCEPTABLE SOLUTION GIVEN ITS PAST PRO-TURKISH STANCE.

3. PRIVATELY, GOC OFFICIALS DWELL ON EXPECTATION OF MAJOR USG ROLE IN SOLVING CYPRUS PROBLEM, RECONSTRUCTING ISLAND. MAN IN STREET GENERALLY TAKES ATTITUDE THAT "EVERYTHING NOW DEPENDS ON KISSINGER." EMBASSY HAS TRIED TO DAMPEN EXPECTATIONS OF MAJOR INITIATIVE FROM WASHINGTON MEETING.

4. PREOCCUPIED WITH BAYRAM AND ECEVIT VISIT, TURK CYPRIOT COMMUNITY HAS PAID LITTLE ATTENTION TO WASHINGTON MEETING.

5. COMMENT: PENDULUM OF GREEK EMOTION SWINGS RAPIDLY. CURRENT MALAISE AND LACK OF PROGRESS ON ALL FRONTS HAS DISPOSED GREEK COMMUNITY TO VIEW USG AS MAIN -- IF NOT ONLY -- CHANCE OF REGAINING MASSIVE LOSSES FROM LAST SUMMER. WE EXPECT OUTBURST OF EDITORIAL WRATH IF WASHINGTON MEETING FAILS TO PRODUCE RESULTS WHICH ACCORD WITH CURRENT JOURNALISTIC FANTASIES. END COMMENT.
BROWN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, MEETINGS, PUBLIC ATTITUDES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 JAN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975NICOSI00047
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750004-0937
From: NICOSIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750176/aaaacomn.tel
Line Count: 86
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23 APR 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <16 MAY 2003 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LOCAL REACTIONS TO MEETING OF AMBASSADORS
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, CY, TU, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006